

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Serial No.: 09/345,977  
Filed: July 1, 1999  
Art Unit: 3681  
Examiner: Stephen D. Maki  
Applicants: Bruce Christenson and Gary Veselica  
Title: **METHOD TO IMPROVE ADHESION BETWEEN  
PRE-CURED ELASTOMER AND METAL SURFACE**

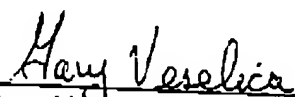
**DECLARATION OF GARY VESELICA**

I, Gary Veselica, state that I am an inventor in the above case.

During the course of working on this invention, we tested the slip torque after heat aging of phosphated surfaces to four different cured rubber members under identical circumstances. A graph representing the results of those tests are attached hereto.

As shown in the attached graph, the testing indicated that the heat aging improved the slip torque between the metal and EPDM and ethylene acrylate but decreased with respect to nitrile rubber and SBR rubber. This result was totally unexpected.

The undersigned hereby declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and such other willful false statements might jeopardize the validity of the application of any patent issuing thereon.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Veselica

K:\EPH\27\Declaration Veselica.wpd